

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE
IN SUPPORT OF Raised Bill 5574 ***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT BIOSCIENCE
CAPABILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT***

March 18, 2014

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee, My name is Barbara Sahagan and I have lived in Mystic, CT for almost 20 years. I am here to testify in support of Raised Bill 5574 ***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT BIOSCIENCE
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I am a research professional who has always been passionate about human health - first, working to discover new medicines for Alzheimer's Disease in the pharmaceutical industry and over the last few years working with non-profit organizations who were focused on improving public health. Working at Pfizer and other pharmaceutical companies, I led many research teams responsible for identifying and delivering potential drug candidates to preclinical development. Currently, I devote my efforts to assisting non-profit organizations and foundations whose missions are in support of developing new medicines for this devastating illness, furthering the viability of small bioscience business in Southeastern Connecticut through my involvement with the Southeastern Connecticut Entrepreneur's Network, and working with organization whose goals are to improve public health. I mention this last interest because of the potential importance of small, bioscience concerns located in Connecticut to the citizens of Connecticut as well as our nation and globally.

As you are most likely aware, today many pharmaceutical companies are looking to small biotech companies for research ideas and programs that they can then develop into clinical programs. This "outsourcing" of research supports alliances between large pharma and small companies. Small companies also rely on the expertise of consultants who have contributed in the many disciplines needed to bring a pharmaceutical to market.

Southeastern Connecticut has many citizens who have the talents to develop successful small bioscience companies and also to serve as consultants to these companies as they move towards alliances with larger companies or bring medicines forward on their own.

Raised Bill 5574 has the potential to support an environment in Southeastern Connecticut in which small bioscience companies can flourish. The talent is already residing in our region of Connecticut and with the passage of this bill and the opening of the CURE incubator in Groton, a networking hub and the physical infrastructure to promote Southeastern Connecticut as a bioscience area of expertise is created not only utilizing current talent but also possibly recruiting others to this area. The goals of this bill are completely aligned with the Bioscience Connecticut Initiative.

In closing, I reiterate my wholehearted support for Bill 5547 as a needed step to maintaining and growing the bioscience industry of Southeastern Connecticut and Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sahagan

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